

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheet of drawing include changes to Fig.1.

Reference character “S” and “C” have been added. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

(1) Claims 1-16 are pending in this application, of which claims 1-7 and 11 have been amended, and claims 14-16 have been added. Claims 8-10 have been withdrawn from further consideration.

(2) Claim 11 was objected to because the term “that the flow path lengths of individual connection channels are decreased” (lines 2-3) lacks antecedent basis. In response, claim 11 has been amended. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

(3) The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner states that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, and that the starting location of the circuit and the corresponding measure to the location of the stack relative to claimed start of the circuit must be shown. Page 2 of the Office Action.

The Applicants assumes this objection relates to claim 5. In response, Fig. 1 has been amended to indicate the start point S of a circuit and the center C of the first stack. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

(4) Claims 1-7 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In response, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(5) Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Swift (U.S. Patent No. 6,032,464). Page 4 of the Office Action. Claims 5-6, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Swift (U.S. Patent No. 6,032,464) in view of Swift (U.S. Patent No. 6,164,073). Page 6 of the Office Action.

In response, claim 1 has been amended, whose support is found at paragraph [0052] at pages 22 and 23 of the original specification and Fig. 8. As described here, the gas injection apparatus 9 is disposed at the center portion of the connection tube portion 2b disposed at the upper side, and a gas such as argon is injected therefrom. By this configuration, the gas injected can be made homogenously. The feature as recited in amended claim 1 is not disclosed by Swift. Rather, since Swift disclose

Newly added claims 14-16 are supported at paragraph [0052] at pages 22 and 23 of the original specification. The features as recited in newly added claims 14-16 are not disclosed by Swift.

In view of the above, the claims as presented are not anticipated by, nor obvious over, Swift. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(6) In view of above, Applicants submit that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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SY/mt

Attachment: Replacement Sheet of Drawing (Fig.1.)